

Radio Address by Nguyen Xuan Oanh, Vice Prime Minister
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Dear Compatriots: The revolution which we are carrying on is not only a political, social, and military revolution but also an economic revolution. In order to carry out successfully this all-out revolution, we must have not only new policies appropriate to our country's situation but also new concepts. One of these new concepts, fully respected by democratic countries, is the definition of the duties and the role of members of the government vis-a-vis the entire people.

Formerly, under the feudalism and colonialism rule the mandarins were the parents of the people, and under the Ngo dynasty that backward principle was thoroughly applied. Today, the revolutionary government has abolished that principle, and it is our common belief that the responsible persons in the government must be the servants of the people. It is on the basis of this belief that I would like to discuss with you, dear compatriots, a few points which I consider necessary in rebuilding the country's economy.

First, in accordance with our policy of giving full support to the pacification program, we will make efforts to seek in every appropriate way to provide for the compatriots living in the rural areas the means necessary for building a new life. For a long time, our rural compatriots have by force of circumstance undergone the worst sufferings. Every effort will be made to raise the level of production and, at the same time, to assure a comfortable life to the farmers. It is only by increasing production that we will be able to meet our domestic needs and to have sufficient goods for export. It is through export that we will be able to import the machinery, materials, and equipment necessary for the building of the fundamental bases of industrial expansion.

Secondly, we advocate the mobilization of private capital for use in production. In economic development, capital is an extremely important factor. Yet, we have hitherto

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had no clear policy of encouraging the investment of capital in production branches. Due to the shortage of capital and investment, the enterprises cannot be expanded. As a result, it has been difficult for the working masses to find employment, and unemployment has become serious.

Adequate conditions must be created to normalize the flow of domestic resources and to make use of stagnant capital. If this unused capital were used in the various branches of production, it would be advantageous to the development of the national economy and, at the same time, it would be possible to normalize the circulation of the bulk of resources and to bring about many new sources of income.

In order to stimulate investment, private savings will be encouraged at the banks and, in the near future, commodity prices will be established to enable compatriots to buy shares according to their ability and wish. Commodity prices will provide compatriots with a favorable opportunity to invest in a secure and productive manner and, thereby, they will gradually become accustomed to a method of investment which has long been popular in almost all big countries throughout the world and will see that commodity prices will greatly assist the enterprises in finding funds for expansion.

Thirdly, this third point is related to the taxation and monetary policy; the economy cannot develop without prior stabilization of the financial and monetary system. In my view, we must first fight inflation and must change the existing tax system in order to encourage the activities of the people. In addition, we are drawing up measures to make the country's economy healthy.

Besides the three points I have presented above, economic development also requires other necessary conditions, for instance, the formulation of a development plan based upon comprehensive and scientific studies; the training of more Vietnamese specialists; the creation of a spirit of close cooperation between industrial and handicraft circles on the one hand and, on the other, between those circles and the government and schools, in order to improve the techniques and mode of business competition. In short, in my capacity and with my responsibility, I

conceive

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conceive it my duty to create all favorable conditions to bring to the compatriots higher income, a more comfortable material life, and happiness in their daily lives. I eagerly hope to have the opportunity to discuss these points again and to present details of each program in my coming talks to the compatriots.

Dear Compatriots: Tonight, I have only these simple but sincere words to open the program of weekly talks on economic and financial problems. I will meet you again over this wave length, when I will have an opportunity to present other problems. Please accept my sincere and wholehearted salutation.